

# THE WILSDENER

Latest news from around the village,  
PLUS Wilsden Parish Council Newsletter

ISSUE 24  
MAY 2012

## Can you help with a few hours of your time?

The Volunteer Car Scheme, which offers people who do not have access to their own transport lifts to places such as the Medical Centre, Hospital outpatients and the Village Hall, urgently needs more drivers. The scheme is in danger of becoming a victim of its own success as the demand from users is growing faster than the number of drivers. The outstanding response to the request for volunteers to help with the Community Library shows that the community spirit in the village is as strong as ever. We are urgently looking for additional volunteer drivers. Even if you can only spare a few hours a month this would be extremely helpful.

On average volunteer drivers carry between 100 and 150 people a month with about half the trips being either to the Tuesday Luncheon Club or the Thursday Senior Citizens meetings at the Village Hall. At the current time the scheme is dependent upon the majority of the volunteer drivers being available and if a significant proportion are either on holiday, ill or otherwise unavailable it can be a challenge organising lifts. The users of the scheme refund the expenses of the drivers at 45p per mile.

While some of our volunteer drivers may do a number of trips a week we also have people who can only do an occasional trip a month and we can readily accommodate both. If you can help or want to know more about what is involved please call either Margaret Harrison on 272305 or Peter Allison on 273403.

## Parish Council Chair resigns due to ill health

At the February Parish Council meeting Cllr Les Mosley submitted his resignation as both Chair of the Council and as a councillor because of ill health. Over the years that he has been a councillor Les has been an active and effective representative of the village with a particular interest in highways issues. He has also represented both the Parish Council and the Wilsden Neighbourhood Forum on the Bradford Council's Shipley Area Committee Advisory Group. He is pictured presenting the Parish Council Trophy to Craig Churchyard to the Wilsden Show in September 2011.



At the Annual Parish Council meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> Cllr Jane Callaghan, who was the Vice Chair last year, was unanimously elected as Chair. Cllr Peter Ketley was elected as Vice Chair.



Brought to you by Wilsden Village Hall (Reg. Charity No. 511626) & Wilsden Parish Council



~ Covering Wilsden, Harecroft & Hallas Bridge ~

## Wilsden Cricket Club Juniors

Wilsden Cricket Club formed its Juniors in 2009 and has grown beyond expectations in such a short time. Fielding just an under 9s team in our first year, this has grown to over 80 boys and girls 2011, from 4 to 17, with teams in all the age groups on the UAJCA. The club is focused on providing a community hub for sports within Wilsden and has built a strong relationship with the Junior Football Club. Our aims are to provide excellence in child development through cricket with inclusion for all. We are also planning ground improvements to support these aims into the future.

Highlights of last season included the pictured Under 13 team completing an excellent 2<sup>nd</sup> season by finishing runners up in the league and winning the Hindle Cup for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, after being runners up last season. In addition, u13s batsmen George Heartfield won the league award for leading batter with an average of 96.



The Under 11s reached their cup final losing on the day to Cullingworth, but this was a fantastic achievement with a young squad. In addition all the u17s, u15s, and u9s performed brilliantly!! Finally, 11 Wilsden Junior players had the honour of representing district sides this summer featuring in all the age groups. Player of the year awards were given to Dan Murphy as the best UAJCA u11 Taverner, and Jacob Jagger as the best UAJCA u12 Test player. The Club is looking for new junior and senior players for 2012, so for further information about the club visit [www.wilsdencr.co.uk](http://www.wilsdencr.co.uk), contact Mark Humphreys on 07877 763523 or wilsdencr@gmail.com.

## Restoring the Dry Stone walls of our village

When the Parish Council carried out a village survey many people said that the repair of dry stone walls was important in terms of improving the environment of Wilsden. Nearly four out of 5 people said that repairing dry stone walls was very important and as a result the volunteer Wilsden Wall building group was established.

This group has already repaired a number of walls, most notably those on Harden Lane from the end of Birchlands Avenue to Cherry Tree Row. Now the weather is at last improving they will be starting work again, initially in



Harecroft on Haworth Road. When this is complete they will move to the stretch of Haworth Road opposite the cricket ground. New members are always most welcome and don't have to have any wall building skills as instruction will be willingly given.

**Contact Tony Caunt on 273709 for more information.** The walling group was granted a community grant late last year of just over £200 to purchase a heavy duty wheelbarrow which is now proving to be extremely useful.

## Jubilees in years gone by

This isn't the first Royal Occasion to have been celebrated in Wilsden. Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 was marked with a procession through the village followed by tea and buns on the cricket field behind the old parish church.

The one I remember well is Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee in 1977 when I was secretary of Wilsden Village Society's Gala Committee. Bradford Council kindly lent us miles of red, white and blue bunting, which we put up in Main Street as well as round the village hall. Unfortunately they didn't mention that, if used across a road, it should have been threaded on wire to prevent sagging. This led to the occasional bunting-draped double decker bus, and nightmares for gala chairman Eric Stow. The traditional Wilsden Gala was expanded into twelve days of events, put on by various local organisations and co-ordinated by the Gala Committee



The Mild and Bitter competition had village pubs and clubs competing at darts, doms and quizzes. One evening we had Longsword Dancers performing outside the Station Hotel, Ling Bob, New Inn and Brewers' Arms. (That was my favourite event of the whole programme). The Scouts put on an aerial ride and the Youth Club organised indoor games, five-a-side football and a knock-out cricket tournament.

In the village hall the Townfield Players (sadly missed) gave their first production, *Man Alive*, on three nights. The Bluebird School of Dancing performed a fairy play, *Land of Nod*, and we even had a film show with a suitably royal theme, organised by the Girls' Gymnastic Club. The School Association gave us an Olde Tyme Music Hall and Bradford Libraries provided a Storytime Roadshow for under fives.



The United Reformed Church Anniversary fell in this week and all were invited to join in their special service. St. Matthew's held an open day with parish records and registers on show, followed by a musical evening with Bingley Musical Union.

A cricket match between the gala chairman's XI and the vicar's XI was a win for the church. On Gala Day itself the royal theme continued, with Christine Woodward crowned by her predecessor Christine Barwick. Five more previous Wilsden gala queens also attended, including Mrs Irene Bastow, who was queen at the coronation year gala in 1953.

The day ended with a Jubilee Ball and a lot of committee members saying "Never again!" That declaration only lasted until time to organise the next one, though we did revert to the traditional one-day gala for many years to come.

Yes, we had a few anxious times getting it all together, but the lasting memory is of what a lot of people had a lot of fun and those in the thick of the organising probably enjoyed it most of all when it did all fall into place.

The recent eye-catching Wilsden Jubilee News publication from the village hall is full of good news, including plans for this summer's royal celebration – lots of scope for joining in before, during and after the main events.

Astrid Hansen

## Crack Lane development of 73 houses

It was gratifying to see how many people in the village, led by a core of committed residents, felt strongly enough about the future of our village to actively object to Harron Homes' application to build 73 houses on Crack Lane. Thankfully the recent application was refused by the Shipley Planning Panel but it does illustrate the importance of resident campaigns. Although recent changes in the law regarding what is called "predetermination" have made it easier for individual parish councillors to campaign against an application we are still somewhat constrained. Under the law until very recently if we publically expressed a view on an application before the Parish Council meeting that considered it, we could be excluded from voting. It would therefore be theoretically possible that, if every councillor publically stated their opposition to an application before the meeting, we would all be excluded from voting and the Parish Council couldn't collectively oppose an important housing development.

We also recognize that although public opposition is not to be underestimated it will not in itself result in an application being refused. For any application to be refused it has got to be because it fails to meet planning criteria and not just that we don't like it. It is also important not to rely on just one reason for opposition because if for some reason the arguments against that are overturned you have nothing else to rely upon. In this respect the Crack Lane development was an easier target because there were just so many reasons on which it could be opposed.

## New footpath to Wilsden Allotments

The ownership of the Wilsden Allotments behind St Matthew's Church was transferred to the Parish Council when we were formed. The Parish Council is also responsible for maintenance of the path up to the allotments which is still owned by Bradford. The management of the allotments lies with Wilsden Gardening Association, who pay rent to the Parish Council. Over recent years the footpath from the Gardening Association Hut to the allotments had become increasingly worn by much use and in wet weather allotment holders were finding it difficult to keep their feet on parts of the path and in June 2011 the Parish Council was approached with a request that the path should be resurfaced.

In addition to receiving allotment rent, the Parish Council receives a grant from Bradford because we own the allotments. A small part of the Council Tax that everyone in the Bradford district pays goes towards the funding of allotments. In areas like Wilsden where the Parish Council owns the allotments, Bradford hands this money back as a grant. In Wilsden all money from both sources is held in a special reserve for projects such as this. We were therefore willing to agree to this request although we did suggest that the Gardening Association should make a contribution as they had funds they were willing to put towards this project.

After taking professional advice, the old footpath was dug out and a 1 metre wide compacted sandstone base was laid down followed by a crushed limestone surface. This new path was completed in October 2011 and as can be seen from the pictures it is a considerable improvement. The Parish Council paid £1,500 towards this project with the balance coming from the Wilsden Gardening Association.



## *Chunterings from the Chair*

Hello, I am Jane Callaghan and I have just been elected as the new Chairman of Wilsden Parish Council. My most used phrase at present seems to be "it's a steep learning curve" (under my breath it's "Help!").

We have welcomed two new councillors during the past year, Dennis O'Hara and Simon Dickerson and lost one when Bob Armstrong (Harecroft) stood down. We also have a new assistant to the Parish Clerk in the person of Maria Sutcliffe.

My predecessor as Chairman, Les Mosley, has recently resigned due to ill health after many years of serving on the Parish Council. He cares deeply for this village we all live in and aimed, in his time as chairman, to challenge and motivate all of us to each put just a small bit of extra effort into making it an even nicer place to live.

I think that is a really wonderful yet achievable aim. So I am asking you, this year, to please do just one extra thing to help or support your community, whether this is coming on a litter-pick (we're booking better weather this year), setting up for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Street Party or the Gala, turning out to sing carols at the switching on of the Christmas lights, or clearing snow from your neighbours path.

Please don't assume that these things will be done by someone else. I know from the widespread and strong response we have had to the Planning issues this year that there is a heartfelt need to protect our community from threats which might damage it, yet the most damaging thing of all is our own disinclination to get involved.

You don't need to sit on committees. You don't even need to organise anything. Just please, please lend your support to those who do, you'll be surprised how much you enjoy it!

*Jane Callaghan*

### **New Parish Council website**

Last year the Parish Council re-launched our website [www.wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk). Although some of the detail has not changed the design has been updated and it is now much easier for us to change the content and introduce new features. We are also including important news item on a regular basis and you can access both current and former agendas and minutes from Council meetings along with copies of the Parish Plan and Annual Reports.

One new feature is to include details of the most recent planning applications in the parish council area. This includes a link to the Bradford Council planning website where you can see full details of what is proposed.

The Parish Council is consulted by Bradford about all planning applications and everyone will reviewed at a Parish Council meeting. Once it is clear when we will consider an application we will post this date on the website and afterwards indicate whether or not we have supported the application. Although the final decision on whether an application is granted or refused is not ours, Bradford will always take note of our views. Both applicants and opponents of a particular application are welcome to attend Council Meetings and will generally have an opportunity to express their views on the proposals.

## **Can we save Wilsden from overdevelopment?**

Over the last few months the Parish Council has been involved in trying to defend the village from major and inappropriate housing developments. Thankfully the recent application to build 73 houses on Crack Lane was refused by the Shipley Planning Panel but it is unlikely that this will be the last application for this site. There has also been much concern about Bradford Council's planning policies up to 2028 with the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy draft document suggesting land around Wilsden should be removed from the Green Belt in order to build a minimum of 300 new houses. The Parish Council has made a number of specific objections to the proposals for Wilsden and these are detailed on the Parish Council website.

From a national perspective recent government policies can be seen as both a threat to villages such as Wilsden and also an opportunity to do something about what is happening in OUR village. The new national planning policy requires that there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development and after much public concern the final policy is not as much of a blank cheque for developers to build on green fields as first feared. More significantly the Localism Act, which became law at the end of 2011, gave considerable powers to local communities to have a say about both where new houses will be built and the types of houses to be built.

The Localism Act specifically states that parish councils are one of the best ways for local communities to have a say about development in their area. The process by which communities such as Wilsden can have their say is through the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and if this is approved by a local referendum the plan is legally binding on Bradford Council's planners. The one area that local communities cannot influence in a Neighbourhood Development Plan is the number of houses that will be built in their area; that remains the responsibility of planning authorities such as Bradford. The overall number of houses to be built in Wilsden will be decided as part of the development of the LDF by Bradford and that is why the Parish Council gave such importance to ensuring that our views were heard.

Wilsden Parish Council has decided that we will work towards the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and as part of this process we will be consulting all residents for their views through a village questionnaire. We would also welcome participation from people who wish to be more actively involved. As this Plan will become part of Bradford's overall planning policy there will be a requirement for planning officers to provide technical advice to ensure that what is being proposed conforms to planning law. The Parish Council also recognises that we may wish to obtain independent technical advice and have included an amount in our budget to cover this, if required.

The detailed processes by which Neighbourhood Development Plans will be implemented has still to be decided nationally and while some local authorities have chosen to be involved in pilot projects Bradford has not been one of them.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan will not just consider housing but will also be able to look at the impact upon shops and other local businesses and how we can make Wilsden even more sustainable as a local community. We can look at how important it is for instance that we have local employment in the village, rather than just being a suburban dormitory for parts of Bradford and Leeds.

## Village Speed Limits

A major concern that is often expressed by a large number of Wilsden residents is the speed of vehicles through the village on Main street, Harden Lane and Laneside. All of these from the cricket club at the one end of the village, and all the way through to the far side of Harden, and on Laneside through Harecroft, are at present 30mph .

The Parish Council regularly organise Speedwatch sessions in conjunction with the Police and a number of local volunteers , where vehicle speeds and registration numbers are recorded. For vehicles exceeding the speed limit, anyone logged as speeding will receive a letter from the Police, and if logged three times will be subject to an automatic fine. The most surprising statistic which has arisen from the figures compiled since we started Speedwatch is that almost 50% of the vehicles recorded as exceeding the speed limit are in fact registered to Wilsden residents.



The question must therefore be, why do we receive so many complaints about speeding, when such a high percentage are actually Wilsden drivers ?

The Police, the Parish Council and the Volunteers are doing their part in this, but what about the residents of Wilsden? If all residents kept to the speed limit, then in effect the problem would be reduced considerably.

One final thought to take note of, at a recent Speedwatch session on Harden Lane, one local resident was recorded at 47mph, which cannot be acceptable, so come on residents of Wilsden and play your part.

## New PCSO for Wilsden

PCSO Gary Fletcher has joined the Bingley Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team. Gary is now the new officer for Wilsden and Harden after replacing Chris Roe who went onto pastures new. Gary is a very experienced community officer and has worked in a variety of areas including Braithwaite, Guard House and Bracken Bank in Keighley all of which have provided Gary with a wealth of experience that he can now bring to his new beat.

Gary has already started to deal with some anti-social behaviour issues in Wilsden and a couple of individuals have already been referred to Bradford District ASB Team so that their behaviour can be monitored. Any individuals who fail to heed the warnings from the Police may find themselves subject to further sanctions under the anti-social behaviour legislation. Diane Collins the ward Sergeant for the Bingley rural team stated, "I am very pleased that Gary has joined the team, he is an enthusiastic individual who I am sure will be an asset to the rural villages". Anyone wishing to contact Gary can email him at [gary.fletcher@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gary.fletcher@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk)



**In order to make it easier for people to report non urgent police issues a new telephone number, 101, has been introduced. If it is an emergency you should continue to use 999 but if not please use 101.**

## Village Diary

### Wilsden Parish Council meeting...

Mon June 11<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall

Mon July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall

Mon Aug 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall

Mon Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall

Mon Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall

Mon Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall

### Wilsden Gardening Association...

Annual Show Sun Sep 16<sup>th</sup>, 2pm, Village Hall

## Can you be a Parish Councillor?

As a result of resignation of Les Mosley there is a vacancy for a parish councillor for the Wilsden ward to serve until May 2015. Because there has been no formal request for a by-election this vacancy will be filled by co-option.

**Are you interested in taking a more active role in what is going on in the village?  
Do you feel that the people of Wilsden should have a greater say in  
the decisions that affect our community.?**

Both nationally and locally there are moves to give local communities a greater influence over what is happening in their area. Most of these initiatives see the parish council as the ideal way to decentralise both power and influence to local communities.

If the Parish Council is going to be strong it is important that it represents as many segments of opinion as possible. If you feel that the current Parish Council is either spending too much or too little money in the area, now is your chance to have your say. If you feel it is involved with the wrong sort of activities or ought to be doing more of what it is currently doing, now is your chance to make a contribution. The main commitment is to attend one Council meeting a month, although all the current councillors do put in much more time than that.

**If you are interested in becoming involved or want to know more please contact  
the Parish Clerk before June 14<sup>th</sup>.**

## Village Community Contact Point

It is now five years since the Police and Community Contact Point opened at the Village Hall but only a minority of residents use this facility. Now that the new disabled access ramp has been opened it will be easier for everyone to reach the Contact Point which is next to the lower level door of the Hall.

Opening hours are 1.30 to 4pm every Thursday and 10.30 to 12 noon every Saturday. As well as reporting minor Police related issues there is also the opportunity to report other council related problems and raise general village issues. The Contact Point is usually manned by a parish councillor and discussions are confidential unless you request otherwise. We hope more residents will take advantage of the services offered.

**Please contact us via**

**Barbara Thompson (Parish Clerk)**

**Wilsden Parish Council, Wilsden Village Hall, Townfield, Wilsden, BD15 0HT**

**(Tel: 07875 635203)**

**[barbara.thompson@wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:barbara.thompson@wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk)**